COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 18.

LABUAN.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No 111, Old Series.)

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No. 18.

LABUAN.

[In continuation of Colonial Report No. 111, Old Series.]

Governor CREAGH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Sandakan,
British North Borneo,
April 14, 1891.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward last year's Blue Book for the Colony of Labuan.

2. On the 1st January I was installed Governor in conformity with an agreement under which Her Majesty's Government had arranged to transfer the administration of the island to the British North Borneo Company.

3. By Her Majesty's Letters Patent of 6th November 1889 (which revoke those of 28th April 1876) the Governor is empowered to make laws subject to Her Majesty's approval without the assistance of a Legislative Council, to appoint from time to time one or more Deputy Governors, to exercise such powers as the Governor may think fit to assign to them, and to appoint and remove from office all judges, magistrates, and other necessary officers.

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The revenue collected during the year under review was $22,567, which shows an increase of $2,067 as compared with that of 1889, but falls short of the sum estimated by $429.

5. The expenditure, which exceeded that of 1889 by $9,480, amounted to $25,745, or $3,469 less than the sum estimated. This saving was chiefly effected under public works, it having been considered expedient to postpone the construction of some buildings which had been provided for in the estimates.

6. The importation of coolies for the Coal Point Mines rendered it necessary to strengthen the judicial, medical, constabulary, and gaol establishments at the beginning of the year, which partly explains the increased expenditure indicated above; but a large proportion of the $9,480 has been absorbed by recent additions to pension list.

7. From the returns it will be seen that the chief sources of revenue have been (1) opium, spirit, tobacco, and other farms,

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$12,720; (2) miscellaneous receipts, $3,000; (3) land sales, and rents, $3,137; (4) fines and fees of courts, $1,115, and (5) postage, $1,003. The receipts under the two latter headings during 1889 were $307 and $776 respectively, but under the others no marked change has taken place during the year.

Public Works.

8. The fish market, police barracks, Government offices, and Government House were repaired, roads improved and planted with shade trees, buoys and beacons renewed, and a house erected for the police magistrate. As the demand for labour at Coal Point has greatly increased the cost of skilled and unskilled free labour, prisoners are now profitably employed on public works and buildings.

Legislation.

9. The following Ordinances were passed during the year:—

1. The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, to make further provision for the protection of women and girls.
2. The Extradition (North Borneo) Ordinance, to provide for the extradition of criminals to North Borneo.
3. The Indian Codes Adopting Ordinance, by which the following Indian Acts were adopted as laws of the Colony:—I. Penal Code; II. Criminal Procedure Code; III. Civil Procedure Code; IV. Contract Act; and V. Evidence Act.
4. Criminal Procedure Amendment Ordinance.
5. The Delivery of Mails Ordinance.
6. The Port and Harbour Ordinance.
7. The Infant Wives Protection Ordinance.

Civil Establishment.

10. Mr. A. S. Hamilton, the Acting Governor, having been appointed Deputy Governor under clause X. of Her Majesty's Letters Patent of the 6th November 1889, continued to act in that capacity until 2nd March, when he retired on pension.

Mr. F. G. Callaghan, who was appointed Police Magistrate in February, was subsequently made Acting Resident and Deputy Governor, the acting appointment of Police Magistrate being conferred on Mr. P. F. Wise, who retained it till the end of the year. Mr. Callaghan having obtained six months' leave on urgent private affairs in May was relieved by Mr. C. P. Gueritz, who performed the duties of Acting Resident and Deputy Governor till 31st December. Mr. Apothecary Leach, joined the service on 16th July, was in medical charge till the end of the year.

Pensions.

11. The only change during the year was the addition of Mr. A. S. Hamilton's name to the long list of pensioners.

Imports and Exports

12. The imports consist chiefly of raw sago, sago flour, rice, and other provisions from the Straits Settlements, together with cloth, gutta, and coal; while the principal exports are sago, flour, coal, gutta, and rattans. The falling off in the export trade shown in the subjoined table is chiefly due to the low price of sago; but it is believed to be partly accounted for by the fact that while the returns for former years were based on estimates prepared after the departure of vessels those for the year under review have been carefully compiled from ships' manifests:—

Year.	Exports.	Imports.
	$	$
1888 - - - -	357,954	419,546
1889 - - - -	357,282	244,414
1890 - - - -	335,376	207,878

Shipping.

13. Ships of war, yachts, and steam launches are not included in the following return of shipping for the last five years:—

Year.	Ships entered.		Ships cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1886 - -	107	26,139	108	26,097
1887 - -	116	31,689	115	31,626
1888 - -	129	37,455	127	37,495
1889 - -	192	63,860	191	62,885
1890 - -	196	57,856	193	56,894

The 193 vessels cleared during the year were all steamers; 156 were British, 25 North Borneo, 6 German, and 6 Sarawak; 80 of

LABUAN.

them were bound for Singapore, 109 for North Borneo, Palawan, and Hong Kong, and 4 for Sarawak. Most of the vessels calling at Labuan are engaged in the North Borneo trade and ply regularly between the ports of that state, Singapore and Hong Kong, making Labuan a port of call. During the year the Colony was visited by three of Her Majesty's ships and the French frigate "Chasseur."

Labour.

14. The average price of unskilled labour is 30 cents to 35 cents for Malay and 40 cents for Chinese coolies. Domestic servants' wages are from $8 to $12 a month and Chinese carpenters, blacksmiths, and masons earn from 60 cents to $1 a day.

Market Prices.

15. The prices of some of the articles in common use are as follows:—Beef, 20 cents; mutton, 50 cents; pork, 15 cents; rice, 3 cents; tea, 35 cents; sugar, 15 cents per pound. Milk 10 cents a bottle. Horned cattle from $10 to $20, ponies from $15 to $60, and sheep from $10 to $12 each.

Gaol.

16. The total number of admissions during the year was 29 and the daily average was 7·35 and the daily average on the sick list, 0·82. Of the above total 17 were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for three months or less, and 11 to rigorous imprisonment for less than one year.

17. The prison at present consists of one large associate ward, but a new building is now under construction in which classification and separation will be possible.

Offences.

18. The following tables show the number of cases reported to the police and the number brought to trial during 1890:—

No. of Cases reported.	Offences against Person.	Offences against Property.	Other Offences.
125	43	42	40

Offence.	No. of Persons		
	Discharged.	Summarily Convicted.	Committed for Trial.
Offences against person - - -	6	34	3
Do. do. property - -	8	9	3
Other offences - - - -	4	35	1
Total No. of persons summoned or apprehended - -	18	78	7

Table showing the Number of Summary Convictions for Various Offences and the Punishment inflicted.

Punishments.	Total No. of Offences.	Assault and other Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property other than Malicious Injuries to Property, or Prædial Larceny.	Offences against Revenue, Highway, Health and other Acts, relating to the Social Economy of the Colony.	Other Offences.
Fine - - -	48	26	10	7	5
Peremptory imprisonment -	28	7	7	1	13
Whipping -	1	1	—	—	—
Bound over with or without sureties, or other trivial punishment -	1	1	—	—	—
Total - -	78	35	17	8	18

19. I subjoin a comparative statement of police and court work during the last four (4) years; the increase of crime indicated in

the last column is due to the large number of Malay and Chinese coolies now employed at the Coal Point Mines.

	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
The number of offences reported to the police - - - - -	56	50	30	125
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the Magistrates	19	42	45	103
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. For offences against person - -	8	6	17	34
2. For offences against property, other than prædial larceny - -	3	5	7	9
3. For other offences - - -	3	10	8	35
The number of convictions in the superior courts :—				
1. For offences against property, other than prædial larceny - -	3	2	2	—
2. For other offences - - -	—	—	—	3
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the inferior courts - - -	2	8	—	14
2. In the superior courts - - -	—	2	—	4
Total - - - -	94	125	109	327

Hospital.

20. The number of persons admitted to hospital during the year was 151 and the daily average 7·61; of these 23 died, 89 cured, and 23 relieved. The average stay of each patient in hospital was about 10 days.

The prevailing maladies were ulcers, fevers, wounds, and rheumatism. The majority of patients were Chinese. The hospital is partly supported by private subscriptions and donations, but chiefly by a Government grant. The Colony was free from epidemics, and on the whole the health of the inhabitants was good.

General.

21. A school was opened by the Rev. Mr. Dresden of the Mill Hill (Roman Catholic) Mission, and another commenced on a site near the Government offices by the Rev. Mr. Elton, chaplain of Sandakan. The former establishment is supported wholly by private subscriptions, but the Government contributes a small annuity to the latter.

22. Marked progress has been made at the Coal Point Mines, which were re-opened during the year by the Central Borneo Company. A tramway of about two miles in length between the mines and the wharf has been completed, and another commenced which is to connect the oil springs with Victoria, a distance of about six

or seven miles. This Company has also completed several buildings and chartered a steam collier of 1,500 tons to ply regularly between this Colony and Singapore. During the year 2,800 tons of coal were exported to the Straits Settlements in this vessel. On the 31st December the Company's local establishment consisted of five Europeans and 1,400 coolies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. V. CREAGH,
Governor of North Borneo
and Labuan.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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No. 54.

LABUAN.

[For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 18.]

Acting Governor BEAUFORT to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Sandakan,
British North Borneo,
July 2, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward last year's Blue Book for the Colony of Labuan.

1. On the 23rd April 1891, I was installed Deputy Governor under clause 10 of Her Majesty's Letters Patent of November 6th 1889, His Excellency Governor Creagh proceeding to Europe on one year's leave of absence, since extended by three months.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue, including land sales, collected during the year was $43,092, which shows an increase of $20,525, over that of 1890, and is an increase on the estimated sum of $8,325. The excess over the amount estimated was chiefly made up as follows:—Postage $2,719, General and Police Court fees and fines $866, Reimbursements in aid $1,509, Miscellaneous receipts $5,165, Interest and Commission $330, Harbour Dues $442.

Under the following headings the amount estimated fell short, viz:—Customs $750, Farms $600, Local rates and Water fees $335.

3. The Expenditure amounted to $35,367 or $9,622 more than in 1890, and $2,420 less than the estimated amount. The headings which were in excess of that estimated, were, Resident and Staff $1,349, Treasury and Customs $40, Medical Department $263, Allowances $501, House and Office Furniture $665, Transport $32, Public Works Department $429. Two houses were estimated for, but only one was erected.

Public Works.

4. The road to Coal Point, a distance of eight miles, was put into repair, the increased traffic owing to the coal mines making it a necessity. The Central Borneo Company, Limited, bore a fair percentage of the repairs and upkeep.

A house for the Medical Officer, capable of accommodating three officers in all, was erected. This building being built of round timbers, and with a leaf roof and walls, can only be described as a temporary house. The usual repairs to Government House,

Government Offices, Magistrates' quarters, and Civil Hospital were carried out. The Victoria Jail was practically rebuilt, which afforded increased accommodation. The boat-house was blown down in a squall on 24th June 1891. A small market was erected at Coal Point.

Legislation.

5. Ten Ordinances were passed during the year.

1. Cattle disease, slaughtering houses, and markets.
2. To regulate the acquisition of land for public purposes and for Companies.
3. Fraudulent marking of merchandise.
4. For the formation of Chinese Advisory Board.
5. Banishment in certain cases.
6. For the Protection of natives of India to be employed in the Colony as labourers.
7. Allowing the use of the Postage and Inland Revenue Stamps of North Borneo in Labuan.
8. To amend the law relating to the disposal of Crown Lands.
9. To amend the law relating to stamps.
10. The appointment of Marriage Registrars and their duties in the Colony.

The above have all received Her Majesty's approval, except No. 1, which seems to have been overlooked,* and No. 10, which I have received instructions to alter in some particulars. There is no Legislative Council. The opinion of the Chinese inhabitants is frequently taken through the Chinese Advisory Board constituted under Ordinance No. IV. of 1891.

Several Ordinances not hitherto printed have been printed in the Official Gazette (printed at Sandakan) for general information.

Civil Establishment.

6. Mr. Creagh the Governor, proceeded to Europe, on leave on April 23rd.

Mr. F. G. Callaghan, acting Resident, proceeded to England on five months' leave, from June 25th to December 24th, on urgent private affairs, duties being carried on by Mr. G. L. Davies.

Mr. G. M. O'B. Horsford, was provisionally appointed Police Magistrate, Treasurer, and Harbour Master.

Dr. K. Stewart was appointed Medical Officer in the place of Mr. Apothecary Leach, who died March 22nd.

Pensions.

7. The only change during the year was the death of Jenal, a native pensioner.

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* Since approved.

Imports and Exports.

8. The imports consist of raw sago, sago flour, coal, and jungle produce from the mainland of British North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak, while the exports are sago, flour, coal, &c. I subjoin a table of imports and exports for the last five years. It should, however, be noted that from 1887 to 1889 the returns were only approximate.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
1887 - - - -	370,751	96,182
1888 - - - -	357,954	419,546
1889 - - - -	357,282	244,414
1890 - - - -	336,306	207,378
1891 - - - -	363,022	265,107

Shipping.

9. Men-of-war and launches are not included in the following return of shipping for the last five years :—

Out of the total number cleared, 185, including two sailing ships, 152 were British, 31 North Borneo, and 2 Sarawak; 79 of them were bound for Singapore, 104 for North Borneo, Palawan, Hong Kong, and Brunei, and 2 for Sarawak. Most of the vessels calling at Labuan are engaged in the North Borneo trade and ply regularly between the ports of that State, Singapore and Hong Kong, making Labuan a port of call. During the year the Colony was visited by four of Her Majesty's ships, two of H.H. the Rajah of Sarawak's, and by one French man-of-war.

Year.	Ships entered.		Ships cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1887 - -	116	31,689	115	31,346
1888 - -	129	37,435	127	37,495
1889 - -	192	63,860	191	62,885
1890 - -	196	57,856	193	56,894
1891 - -	185	61,665	185	62,469

Trade.

10. A large increase is shown under this heading. The returns have been carefully compiled from ships' manifests and not from estimates, as in the years 1887 to 1889. I append a table of trade for the last three years.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
1889 - - - -	357,282	244,414
1890 - - - -	336,306	207,878
1891 - - - -	363,022	265,107

Population.

11. A census was taken early in the year. I append a table of the result.

—	Europeans.	Eurasians.	Japanese.	Chinese.	Indians.	Africans.	Malays.
Males - -	24	11	—	1,148	87	5	2,256
Females -	1	6	6	209	42	—	2,058
Total -	5	17	6	1,357	129	5	4,314

Total males - - - -	3,531
„ females - - - -	2,322
Total population - - -	5,853

Only 470 or 8·03 per cent. are returned as able to read and write.

Gaols.

12. During the year 140 persons were apprehended. The following tables show the number of cases reported to the police and the number brought to trial during 1891:—

No. of Cases reported.	Offences against Person.	Offences against Property.	Other Offences.
150	28	42	80

Offence.	No. of Persons			
	Discharged.	No. of cases dismissed.	Summarily convicted.	Committed for Trial in superior court.
Offences against person	5	—	27	1
Do. do. property -	12	6	32	4
Other offences - -	10	6	30	7
Total No. of persons summoned or apprehended	27	12	89	12

Table showing the Number of Summary Convictions for Various Offences and the Punishment inflicted.

Punishments.	Total No. of Offences.	Assault and other Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Offences against Revenue, Highway, Health.	Other Offences.
Fine - - -	50	34	10	3	3
Imprisonment in lieu of fine. -	9	5	—	—	4
Peremptory imprisonment -	35	3	20	1	11
Total - -	94	42	30	4	18

Hospital.

13. The number of persons admitted to hospital during the year was 259 and the daily average 22·9; of these 37 died, 190 were cured, and 10 relieved. The average stay of each patient in hospital was about 10 days.

The prevailing maladies were beri-beri, fever, ulcers, and injuries. The majority of patients were Chinese. The hospital is partly supported by private subscriptions and donations, but chiefly by a Government grant. With the exception of two cases

of small-pox the Colony was free from epidemics, and on the whole the health of the inhabitants was good.

General.

14. The Central Borneo Company, Limited, commenced the construction of a narrow-gauge rail or tram line from Victoria Harbour proceeding in a northerly direction towards Coal Point and the Oil Springs, the total distance being about eight miles. About three and a quarter miles was completed, and the rails partially laid. This Company exported from Coal Point 6,710 tons of coal during the year, which, compared with 2,600 tons in 1890, speaks favourably of its progress. 7,757 tons of coal were imported from Brooketon (Muara).

A school was erected during the year by the Rev. W. H. Elton, chaplain of Sandakan, from private subscriptions, the Government contributing a small annuity. This was blown down on July 9, but has been again built.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. P. BEAUFORT,
Deputy Governor of Labuan
and North Borneo.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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No. 93.

LABUAN.

[For Report for 1891 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 54.]

Governor CREAGH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Governor's Office, Sandakan,
August 18, 1893.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward by this mail the Blue Book returns for 1892.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The chief sources of revenue were:—Excise duties on spirits, opium, and tobacco, $23,100; land revenue, $2,810; miscellaneous receipts and reimbursements, $5,197; Post Office and Court receipts, $2,688; market and other rents, $2,832; harbour and customs dues, $1,555; and land sales, $1,478.

3. The total revenue collected during the year was $40,287 or $1,907 less than the estimated amount, and $2,805 less than the total for 1891. The deficit occurred chiefly under customs, rates and taxes, and interest and commission.

4. The total revenue, although somewhate less than that of 1891, is considerably in excess of the amount collected in any previous year since 1876, when it reached $45,262, the highest revenue recorded in the history of the Colony. During the eleven years from 1880 to 1890 the annual revenue has only once exceeded $24,000.

5. The expenditure during 1892 amounted to $32,674, or $1,828 more than the estimated sum, and $1,265 less than the expenditure of 1891. The principal headings of expenditure under establishments were Medical Department $2,854, Police $4,628, Public Works and Land Department $1,825, Resident and Staff, $4,620. The total expenditure exclusive of establishments was $15,959, which includes $6,247 paid annually as pensions,

Trade and Shipping.

The noteworthy improvement in trade shown in the subjoined table, although in some degree accounted for by unusually large importations of cloth and rice, is chiefly due to the increased activity of the sago business:—

Year.	Shipping.				Trade.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Imports.	Exports.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.		
					$	$
1891 - - -	185	61,665	185	62,469	363,022	265,107
1892 - - -	147	57,697	148	57,758	565,772	365,535

7. Sago, which is the principal article of trade, is imported from the neighbouring coast of North Borneo and converted into flour at local factories for the Singapore market. There are now three sago factories near Victoria owned and worked by Chinese.

8. The value of sago flour exported last year was $205,361, as compared with $67,993 in 1891, and $71,637 in 1890, the industry having been stimulated, as said, by a large and increasing demand for the commodity in Germany and France and by the low rate of exchange.

9. A regular trade is also carried on in gutta, sandal wood, edible birds' nests, camphor, and other forest products, which are imported in native boats from the rivers of North Borneo, Brunei, and Sarawak, on the opposite coast to be exchanged for European cloth and provisions and re-shipped to Singapore.

10. The Export Returns show that this trade has declined from $105,741 in 1891 to $54,361 in 1892, owing chiefly to reduced shipments of rattans, gutta, and birds' nests.

Formerly some of the more distant northern ports contributed materially to the boat trade of the Colony, the value of which was estimated at $248,439 eleven years ago, but since then much of it has been gradually diverted into other channels.

11. Before the cession of North Borneo to the Company Labuan was the most convenient transhipping port for most of the trade of that territory. Native produce of all kinds was regularly imported in small vessels not only from Kudat, Gaya, and Sandakan, but from Darvel Bay, Sulu, and Palawan, to await in Labuan the arrival of the only trading steamer then plying between the Colony and the Straits Settlements.

12. Within the last few years, however, all the above ports have been placed in direct and fairly regular communication with

Singapore. There are now six steamers engaged in this traffic which call at Labuan both ways for coal, provisions, or cargo; and the native produce from the northern ports, which was formerly stored in the colony and entered as both imports and exports, now passes through without appearing in the returns.

13. The subjoined table, showing a steady increase of shipping since 1882 without any corresponding development of trade, affords evidence of the extent to which the trade and shipping of the colony have been affected by changed conditions of the traffic arising out of the opening of North Borneo ports:—

Year.	Shipping.				Trade.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Imports.	Exports.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.		
					$	$
1882 - - -	82	24,416	82	24,378	611,105	640,246
1883 - - -	86	23,408	86	23,408	371,591	393,308
1884 - - -	87	23,959	87	23,959	407,370	411,555
1885 - - -	89	24,116	89	23,763	409,598	386,089
1886 - - -	107	26,139	107	26,139	382,951	403,308
1887 - - -	115	31,380	115	31,346	370,751	417,551
1888 - - -	129	37,435	127	37,495	357,954	419,546
1889 - - -	192	63,860	191	62,885	357,282	244,414
1890 - - -	193	57,856	193	56,894	336,306	207,378
1891 - - -	185	61,665	185	62,469	363,022	265,107
1892 - - -	147	57,697	148	57,758	505,772	365,555

Agriculture and Mining.

14. The attempts made or encouraged from time to time by successive governors to introduce gambier, oil palm, mulberry, and other industries have not met with success; and the only agricultural products of the Island are padi, coconuts and fruit, which are consumed locally or sold to passing steamers.

15. The plain in the centre of the island contains about 15,000 acres of fairly good padi land, but very little of it is regularly planted, and so primitive are the methods employed in its cultivation by the Kadayan farmers, who neither plough, irrigate, or manure, that last year their total crop from 300 acres was less than 2,000 bushels.

Coal Mines.

1. During the year good work has been done by the staff of the Central Borneo Company. Both the railway from the mines to Coal Point and the principal line of about 8½ miles, which is to

connect the colliery with Victoria, were extended and improved, a second shaft was completed and minor works and machinery constructed and put in order.

17. By abandoning all surface operations and working from low-level adits the company expects, when the railway is opened in 1893, to be in a position to supply coal of a superior quality to any hitherto produced in the Colony, at a reasonable price.

18. Mr. Boosie, the company's chief manager, informs me that on 31st December the company had a staff of nine Europeans and 931 Chinese and Malays, employed at Coal Point, Victoria, and on the principal line of railway, which he expects will be opened to traffic next October.

19. It is anticipated that by means of the railway much of the overturning incidental to the present method of transport will be avoided, and that consequently the conveyance of coal to Victoria by rail will be attended with less expense and less damage from breakage than by the present sea route from Coal Point.

Police and Gaols.

20. During 1892 194 persons were apprehended. The following tables show the number of cases reported to the police and the number brought to trial during the year:—

No. of Cases Reported.	Offences against Persons.	Offences against Property.	Other Offences.
204	21	69	114

Offence.	No. of Persons			
	Discharged.	No. of Cases Dismissed.	Summarily Convicted.	Committed to Superior Court.
Against person - -	1	8	12	—
Do. property -	7	6	49	3
Other offences - -	5	16	84	3
Total No. of persons -	13	30	145	6

Table showing the Number of Summary Convictions for Various Offences and the Punishment inflicted.

Punishments.	Total No. of Offences.	Assault and Offences against Person.	Offences against Property.	Other Offences.
Fine - - - -	86	9	12	65
Imprisonment in lieu of fine -	—	—	—	—
Peremptory imprisonment -	53	—	35	18
Whipping - - -	6	4	2	—
Total - - -	145	13	49	83

Hospital.

21. The number of persons admitted to hospital during the year was 220, and the daily average 23·9; of these 21 died, 184 were cured, and 4 relieved.

Public Works.

22. The usual work on the upkeep of roads was carried on during the year, chiefly by convict labour.

The roofs of Government House and the Fish Market had to undergo extensive repairs owing to the ravages of white ants and dry-rot.

A boat-shed was erected at the side of the Fish Market.

Legislation.

23. Two Ordinances were passed during the year :—

Ordinance I.—To enable sentences of imprisonment in North Borneo to be carried into effect in the Colony.

Ordinance II.—To amend Ordinance No. X. of 1891, entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the appointment and duties of Marriage Registrars in the Colony of Labuan."

Civil Establishment.

24. Mr. F. G. Callaghan, Acting Resident, resigned the service on September 20th.

Mr. E. P. Gueritz was appointed to act as Resident on September 20th.

Mr. G. Ormsby was appointed to act as Post and Harbour Master and Superintendent of Police during the absence on leave of Mr. H. Holkar from May 28th.

Mr. C. G. Jansz was appointed Medical Officer in charge of Labuan on the resignation of Dr. K. T. Stewart on July 27th.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. VANDELEUR CREAGH,
Governor of Labuan.

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LABUAN.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 93.)

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
89	Basutoland	1892–93
90	Ceylon	1892
91	Zululand	,,
92	Mauritius	,,
93	Labuan	,,
94	British Honduras	,,
95	Lagos	,,
96	Sierra Leone	,,
97	Fiji	,,
98	Rodrigues	,,
99	St. Helena	,,
100	British Bechuanaland	1892–93
101	British Guiana	,,
102	Newfoundland	1892
103	Jamaica	1892–93
104	Victoria	1892
105	Bermuda	1893
106	Gambia	,,
107	Hong Kong	,,
108	St. Vincent	,,
109	Gibraltar	,,
110	Bahamas	,,
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
112	Leeward Islands	,,
113	Barbados	,,
114	Malta	,,
115	Zululand	,,
116	British Honduras	,,
117	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
118	Falkland Islands	,,
119	Rodrigues	,,
120	Mauritius	,,
121	Straits Settlements	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 122.

LABUAN.

[For Report for 1892 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 93.]

Governor CREAGH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Labuan,
September 22, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for 1893, which I am forwarding to your Lordship by this mail.

1. *Revenue.*

The total revenue for the year was $39,734 and the expenditure $36,129, showing a balance on the revenue side of $3,605. The expenditure exceeded that of 1892 by $3,455.

2. *Public Works.*

A bridle path was constructed through the padi swamp to Bukit-Kalam. Corduroy Road was re-constructed, and the planting of shade trees continued during the year. Roads and bridges were kept in repair by convict labour.

3. *Legislation.*

The following Ordinances were passed :—

No. 1 of 1893.—To Suppress Traffic in Counterfeit Stamps.

No. 2.—To Limit and Regulate the Working of Cargo on Sundays.

No. 3.—To Define the Powers and Duties of the Postmaster and to Regulate the Despatch, Delivery, and Management of Mails.

No. 4.—To Provide for the Registration of Trade Marks.

No. 5.—To adopt the Indian Company's Act of 1882 and amending acts.

Ordinance No. 6.—To adopt the Indian Limitation of Suits Act, and amending Acts.

4. *Civil Establishment.*

The following changes took place during the year :—

1. Mr. W. R. Flint was appointed Acting Resident and Deputy Governor, *vice* Mr. E. P. Gueritz, transferred.
2. Mr. R. V. K. Applin acted as Port and Harbour Master and Superintendent of Police *vice* Mr. G. Ormsby, transferred.
3. Mr. M. Ponsonby was appointed Sub-Treasurer, *vice* Mr. G. M. O'B. Horsford, transferred.

5. *Trade and Shipping.*

The Trade Statistics, being compiled from ship's manifests and information supplied by shippers and consignees, who are under no statutory obligation to furnish classified returns, only approximately represent the steamship trade of the colony. The boat traffic with the neighbouring coast ports, which cannot be estimated with any approach to accuracy, is entirely omitted from the Blue Book Return of Imports and Exports. The general depression of trade indicated in the subjoined table is attributed chiefly to the low price of sago, which reduced the Imports and Exports of this product to $63,806 and $142,023 respectively as compared with $102,758 and $205,367, the corresponding figures for 1892.*

The imports of cloth, provisions, and jungle produce also compare unfavourably with those of the previous year, but under exports, coal and sago are the only products that appear to have materially declined :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Number of Ships.	
			Entered.	Cleared.
	$	$		
1892 - - -	565,772	365,555	147	148
1893 - - -	518,414	247,399	143	143
Decrease -	47,258	118,156	4	5

The business and profits of sago factories have suffered not only from the decreased demand for the staple in the Singapore market but from the increased difficulty of exporting it. The

* Both raw and refined sago are included in the returns of imports, but the latter only, which is known commercially as "sago flour," finds a place amongst exports, all raw sago brought to the Colony, as well as the small quantity produced locally, being manufactured into flour by Chinese, prior to shipment.

only regular communication between the Colony and the Straits Settlements is maintained by steamships engaged in the North Borneo trade. These vessels call at Labuan both ways, but, as they occasionally return from Sandakan and Kudat with a full through cargo for Singapore, large quantities of sago and other produce which have been stored on the wharf for shipment have to remain exposed to the weather, at the owner's risk, to await the arrival of the next steamer.

To ensure the regular shipment of their goods, the Chinese and Native traders are endeavouring to engage a vessel exclusively for the local traffic, which they consider the only effectual means of averting the delay and disappointment to which they are now so frequently exposed. Most of the trade of the Colony and of the raw material supplied to its sago factories is derived from the North Borneo ports across the Bay. I find from the Customs Returns of Province Dent that no less than 69 per cent. of the merchandise exported from the Colony in 1893 came from the port of Mempakul alone; and the attached report by Mr. J. G. G Wheatley, on the sago industry of Province Dent, shows that the amount of raw and manufactured sago shipped from Mempakul to Labuan during the year exceeded the total exports of this commodity from the Colony. The development of planting and other industries in Province Dent, which has quadrupled the trade with the Colony during the last four years, continues to progress with steady, if not very rapid, strides; and, notwithstanding the restrictions placed on emigration by neighbouring chiefs, settlers are coming under the company's rule in increasing numbers and larger areas of land being brought under cultivation every year.

6. *Mines.*

The output of the Coal Point mines during the last two years was as follows:—

Year.	Tons.	Value.
		$
1892 - - - -	12,004	58,681
1893 - - - -	4,112	22,616
Total - - -	16,116	81,297

The falling off during 1893 resulted from the suspension of work in the MacGregor and Ashby Mines. On the Coal Point and Victoria railway good progress was made during the year, and at the end of December it was anticipated that the line would be completed, and regular traffic commenced, before 1st February.

7. General.

During the year the Colony was visited by four British ships of war, and the United States cruiser "Marion."

Sir Edmund Fremantle, commander-in-chief of the China Station, arrived in the flagship "Imperieuse" in February.

In May, Sir Charles Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak, paid a short visit to the Colony.

The health of the colony has been very satisfactory throughout the year, and the erection of some new houses has prevented over-crowding and improved the sanitary condition of the town.

A local money order service with North Borneo was established, and also a direct money order exchange with Hong Kong and Singapore, but arrangements have not yet been completed for a parcels post service with those Colonies.

A simple system of signals, introduced by Mr. R. K. Applin, to notify the arrival and departure of steamers, and the closing and delivery of mails, has been much appreciated by the Chinese and native inhabitants as well as by Europeans.

In December, the German ship Carl Friederich (a derelict) was discovered and towed into port by captain Kaston of the American barque "Georgietta."

On the 6th and 7th December, strong north-westerly gales unroofed several native houses, up-rooted trees, and did other damage to private property, and some roads and bridges sustained serious injury from an unusually high tide which occurred about the same time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. V. CREAGH, Governor.

A REPORT ON SAGO CULTIVATION IN PROVINCE DENT.

The Sago Palm, from which is manufactured the well-known Sago Flour of commerce, resembles in appearance the cocoanut tree. The former is valued for its trunk alone, the nuts are useless, and the tree dies if allowed to fruit.

Varieties of Sago Palm.

1. There are only two kinds of Sago Palm which are cultivated, the "Rumbia Benas" (true sago), and the "Rumbia Berduri" (the thorny sago), also known as "Rumbia Salak." In appearance, both are the same, but on close inspection the stems of the latter, to which the leaves are attached, known as "Pallapa," will be found to be covered with bunches of thorns about one and a half to three inches long.

Mode of Planting.

2. Sago grows chiefly on damp ground subject to floods at certain times of the year. If grown in swamps, less sago is

produced and the trunks do not attain as great a height as when planted on clayey damp soil subject to floods periodically. Once planted, the tree withstands floods and brackish water, but in the latter it does not grow as fast and the trunks are small. Sago is planted chiefly by suckers sent out by the parent tree which are carefully cut off under ground. In swampy ground, the shoots are planted out at once, but in other localities the shoots are tied together in bundles and placed in wet, muddy ground until they have begun to send out roots, when they are planted out in holes 12 inches deep, a foot in diameter, and 4 to 6 fathoms apart. No earth is placed about the roots, but the plants are supported in an upright position by two sticks fixed on either side. The earth gradually fills the holes during rains and floods. One man with an assistant can plant 300 plants a day. After this, further attention is generally unnecessary for a year, and in some cases two years, when the jungle growth is cleared around the growing tree. Some planters regularly clear around the roots and cut away suckers if they are too abundant. Rumbia Berduri is preferred to the Rumbia Benar, chiefly because the wild pigs do not attempt to destroy young plants, on account of the thorns. In planting Rumbia Benar, fences have to be made to keep out the pigs, which are very destructive. Rumbia Berduri is also reported to produce more raw sago, but the quality of flour is the same in both species. Each tree produces from four to five pikuls of raw sago (133 lbs. = one pikul), being at the rate of one pikul per fathom of trunk. Both trees grow to the same dimensions, 24 to 42 feet in height, and one and a half to three feet in diameter at the base of trunk. The Sago Palm is not subject to any disease, but, if a deep cut is made at the base of the trunk close to the earth, the pith is attacked by large maggots, which gradually eat their way into the centre of the tree, and in three or four months destroy the whole trunk. This is a favourite way of paying off a grudge among the natives. The sago tree takes from five to seven years to mature, according to the nature of the soil. During the third year, the plant begins to send out shoots. These grow up with the parent tree and in time give out suckers. If these are allowed to grow too freely, they form a dense thicket around the mature trunks and give a great deal of trouble to the workers. Every year, each clump produces a large number of workable trunks. During the fifth year, the parent tree is ready to be cut down. In the meantime, the young shoots are rapidly developing, and in the seventh year probably three or four trees are ready, and so on, so that the sago tree once planted continuously supplies the planter with logs without giving him any trouble as regards their cultivation. The natives compare their sago plantation to a herd of cattle, and it would be difficult to reckon the number of logs that each clump may have produced in the space of 40 or 50 years. When the sago tree is allowed to flower, the pith begins to diminish, and, if the mature trunks are not cut down regularly, the whole clump gradually deteriorates and the trees become stunted bushes instead of growing to the usual height. Nothing

of the sago tree is lost. The trunk supplies the sago; the leaves and stems are largely used by natives for building purposes, the former for roofs and the latter for partitions and walls of houses, which when properly constructed are very neat-looking and durable. The top shoot makes an excellent vegetable, while the trunk, when split in two longitudinally and the pith scooped out, is used as a boat to transport the raw sago which has been extracted from it. The bark when taken off makes excellent fuel, and an enterprising Chinaman who employs an engine for rasping sago logs uses this as a substitute for fire-wood.

The sago trade between Mempakul and Labuan is carried on by native schooners of about 40 tons, which ply regularly and in fair weather are able to make a trip every two days.

The following are the figures recorded in the returns at Mempakul of the sago shipped to Labuan since January 1890.

	Sago Flour.	Raw Sago.
	$	$
1890 - - - -	23,483.72	10,350.32
1891 - - - -	24,826.67	18,560.20
1892 - - - -	101,327.06	25,304.59
1893 - - - -	119,092.70	25,034.24

The latter portion of the year is generally the busiest, as the rains assist in the transport of the raw material from streams which may have become too shallow during the dry weather.

The present price of sago flour at Singapore is $2.55 per pikul. The Chinese traders buy the raw material at from $1 to $1.20 per pikul, according to the market price at Singapore, and, after allowing for the cleaning of the raw sago and washing it in the factories, there remains a profit of at least 50 cents per pikul to the Chinese manufacturers. The freight from Labuan to Singapore at present is 22 cents per bag of 115 catties = 150 lbs. A royalty of 6 cents per pikul is charged on sago flour exported from Province Dent to Labuan when the Singapore price is below $2.50, and eight cents when above that sum. On raw sago, a royalty of eight cents is charged to protect the sago factories. The sago trade is increasing rapidly on the Borneo Coast, and at the present time over three-fourths of the flour and raw sago exported from, and imported into, Labuan comes from British North Borneo ports.

Mempakul, September 15, 1894. (Signed) J. G. G. WHEATLEY, Magistrate, Province Dent.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 157.

LABUAN.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
123	Basutoland	1893–94
124	St. Lucia	1893
125	St. Helena	"
126	Ceylon	"
127	Fiji	"
128	Grenada	"
129	Sierra Leone	"
130	British Bechuanaland	1893–94
131	British New Guinea	1892–3& 1893–94
132	Lagos	1893
133	British Guiana	1893–94
134	Jamaica	"
135	Newfoundland	1893
136	Gold Coast	"
137	Zululand	1894
138	Bermuda	"
139	Bahamas	"
140	Barbados	"
141	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
142	Malta	"
143	Gambia	"
144	Windward Islands	"
145	Trinidad and Tobago	"
146	Gibraltar	"
147	Falkland Islands	"
148	Hong Kong	"
149	Straits Settlements	"
150	Lagos	"
151	Seychelles	"
152	Basutoland	"
153	Fiji	"
154	St. Helena	"
155	Ceylon	"
156	Mauritius	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.

No. 157.

LABUAN.

(For Report for 1893, *see* No. 122.)

Governor BEAUFORT to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN

Governor's Office,
Sandakan, North Borneo,
September 11, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward by this mail the Labuan Blue Book for the year 1894.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The revenue of the Colony is chiefly derived from land rents, including—

	$
Squatter's licences - - -	2,253
Rent of the usher market - -	2,760
Excise licences, opium - - -	12,240
Excise licences, tobacco - - -	3,900
Excise licences, spirits - - -	2,820
Post Office, profit on sale of stamps -	4,489
Harbour dues, royalty on coal exported -	1,753

2. The total revenue for the year was $36,962. This was less than that of the previous year by $2,772. The chief falling off was in licences $4,124, land revenue, fines and fees, and miscellaneous. The most considerable increase was in postal revenue $2,836, while rents, exclusive of land, customs, interest and commission and reimbursements, all showed an improvement on the year 1893.

3. The total expenditure for the year amounted to $45,464, an increase on that of 1893 of $9,335, the largest increases were in upkeep of Government vessels $2,587, and works and buildings $2,843. This excess was caused by the necessity of providing accommodation for the Telegraph Company. The public works and buildings done were with that exception limited to repairs and upkeep, but the increased cost is partly due to the satisfactory fact that there was so little convict labour available.

4. It will be observed that the expenditure was in excess of the revenue by $8,502, which amount was therefore contributed by the British North Borneo Company towards the administration of the Colony. This includes an annual payment of over $6,000 pensions accrued at the date of the transfer to the Company, which the Company undertook to pay. The Colony, however, is charged with about an equal amount as contribution to the expenditure on the different departments of the Company's Government which direct and control the branches of these departments in Labuan. Exclusive of land rents, the only direct taxation produced the small sum of $659, the balance of the revenue being made up of licences for the importation, manufacture and sale of opium, for the sale of spirits and tobacco and pawnbroking; of these the spirit and tobacco licences are practically monopolies, sold by tender and giving the licensee the sole right to sell liquor and tobacco. These have been in force for some years, and it is a question whether the right to sell should not be thrown open to the public, and the collection of duty alone be farmed out.

COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

5. There is no Legislative Council or other Assembly. A Chinese Advisory Board was created in 1891, but does not seem to have been warmly taken up by the Chinese, and has since fallen into disuse. The Board known as the Victoria Lighting and Sanitary Committee, established under Ordinances IV. of 1882 and II. of 1883, appears also to have become defunct, the rates levied under those Ordinances being now collected by the Government, which provides for the sanitary and lighting work out of the general revenue.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

6. No important changes took place except that the larger European population brought by the coal and telegraph companies necessitated the appointment of Dr. Adamson, M.B., C.M., of Edinburgh, as medical officer in place of an apothecary.

CHURCHES.

7. There is no church in Labuan, the former one was burnt down in 1889, and has not been rebuilt, for want of funds.

EDUCATION.

8. The only education establishment in the island is a small school in Victoria, built by the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel Mission, now in charge of a Chinese schoolmaster. There is an average daily attendance of from 10 to 11 boys, no girls. The Government contributes $200 per annum to its support.

TRADE.

9. There was a satisfactory rise in value of both imports and exports, as compared with 1893, as follows:—

	1894.	1893.	Increase.
	$	$	$
Imports - -	852,880	518,414	334,465
Exports - -	482,820	247,399	235,421

The principal improvement in the imports from the mainland of Borneo was sago, of which there was an increase of $88,861 in value.

The main increases in exports were as follows:—

Article.	1894.	Increase over 1893.
	$	$
Sago-flour - -	218,081	76,058
Damar - - -	39,540	39,231
Guttah - - -	30,449	15,054
Coal (Labuan) - -	67,304	44,688

10.

Year.	Shipping.				Trade.	
	Entered.		Cleared.			
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.
					$	$
1891 - - -	183	61,665	183	62,469	363,022	263,107
1894 - - -	121	56,879	120	56,618	852,880	482,820

These figures show that the carrying trade has somewhat concentrated in the hands of a smaller number of vessels, which have, however, been able to carry a very much larger amount of merchandize, and points to an improvement, therefore, in the business of the ships calling at Labuan.

Communication with Singapore is kept up by four steamers running regularly, three of which go on to British North Borneo ports and sometimes to Brunei, while the fourth is employed exclusively in carrying coal from the Coal Point mines. In addition to these there are several smaller steamers belonging to

Labuan or British North Borneo, which pay frequent visits, and do a considerable trade.

11. There is a notable increase in the amount of coal exported from the Coal Point mines, now being worked by the New Central Borneo Company; attributable undoubtedly to the completion of the line of railway connecting the mines with Victoria Harbour.

Year.	Tons exported.	Value.
		$
1892 - -	12,004	58,681
1893 - -	4,112	22,616
1894 - -	14,957	67,304

Most of the coal is taken to Singapore in the Company's ship "Libelle" but during the year under review a trade was opened with Manila which showed a perceptible increase when the war broke out between China and Japan.

AGRICULTURE.

12. Of the estimated acreage of the Colony only about 2,338 acres are under cultivation, leaving a balance of about 16,012 acres not yet cultivated. Padi, coconuts, and fruit are the only products at all extensively planted.

GAOLS AND CRIME.

13 Thirty-eight persons in all were committed to the gaol, 19 for short terms, 14 for less than one year, and five for a longer period.

One hundred and ninety-three offences were reported to the police in respect of which 80 persons were acquitted or discharged, 93 were summarily convicted, and 11 sent for trial. Of the last named, 10 were convicted, and one discharged.

HOSPITAL.

14. One hundred and forty-seven were under treatment in the hospital, of whom 111 were discharged cured, 15 relieved, and 10 died during the year.

TELEGRAPH.

15. Cables were laid from Singapore and Hong Kong to Labuan, and telegraphic communication was established in April

with those places, by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company. The British North Borneo Company provides suitable offices and quarters for the Telegraph Company's employés in Labuan at a cost of $20,000. A cable was laid at the same time from Victoria to Menumbok, a rising settlement on the mainland of Borneo. The British North Borneo Company are constructing a telegraph across country to connect this with Sandakan on the East Coast.

POSTAL.

16. During the year, about 20,324 letters and postcards, and about 15,697 newspapers, book packets, &c. and parcels passed through the Post Office, while money-order transactions took place to the value of $1,916. The old postal labels were discontinued and a new series introduced by the British North Borneo Company, being similar in pattern, though different in colour, to those used in the State of North Borneo surcharged with the name of the Colony.

GENERAL.

17. The German ship "Carl Friedrich" was discovered derelict and towed into Labuan by the American barque "Georgietta" in December 1893. She was appraised and sold and was subsequently towed to Singapore in April.

Sir Charles Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak, visited the Colony, and H.M.S. "Pigmy" made a short stay.

The only legislative measures were two Ordinances to provide for the suppression of the traffic in fictitious postage stamps.

18. My predecessor, Mr. C. V. Creagh, C.M.G., left the Colony on June 12th. I am sorry that pressure of business or bad health, or both, prevented him from making this report, as I am unfortunately only able to give this somewhat bald statement on the returns which have been made up by the Resident, which Mr. Creagh could doubtless have elucidated and put into more interesting form.

I have, &c.

LEICESTER P. BEAUFORT,
Governor of Labuan and North Borneo.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 180.

LABUAN.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 157 of this Series.)

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October 1896.

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1896.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
146	Gibraltar	1894
147	Falkland Islands	"
148	Hong Kong	"
149	Straits Settlements	"
150	Lagos	"
151	Seycnelles	"
152	Basutoland	1894–5
153	Fiji	1894
154	St. Helena	"
155	Ceylon	"
156	Mauritius	"
157	Labuan	"
158	Gold Coast	"
159	British Guiana	"
160	Sierra Leone	"
161	Jamaica	1894–95
162	British Honduras	1894
163	British Bechuanaland	1894–95
164	Newfoundland	1894
165	Gambia	"
166	Bermuda	"
167	Leeward Islands	"
168	British New Guinea	1894–95
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	"
171	Gibraltar	"
172	Malta	"
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.

No. 180.

LABUAN.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 157.)

Governor BEAUFORT to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN

SIR, Labuan, July 27 1896.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Labuan Blue Book for the year 1895.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total amount collected was $47,907.78, while the total expenditure was $70,316.79, showing a deficit of $22,409.01, which was borne by the British North Borneo Company.

The following table shows the chief sources of revenue and the increase or decrease from the same source in 1894, cents being omitted:—

Source.	Received in 1895.	Increase in 1895.	Decrease in 1895.
	$	$	$
Land revenue - - -	2,934	605	—
Rents, exclusive of land - -	4,176	315	—
Licenses (opium, pawn, spirit and tobacco).	23,672	3,990	—
Fines and fees - - -	2,459	—	77
Postal and inland revenue - -	8,199	3,710	..

A considerable increase in the amount collected for quit rents owing to the grant to the New Central Borneo Company of 10 square miles, the increased rent paid for the Ussher Market, together with the substantial increase of $3,990 for the rent of the opium and other farms, are a satisfactory sign of progress.

The increase in postal revenue was caused by the demands of stamp collectors.

The heavy increase in the expenditure was caused by the fulfilment of the agreement under which the British North Borneo Company promised to build suitable offices and houses for the staff of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company. These were commenced in 1894, but the main portion of the expenditure was incurred in the year under review. The new buildings stand on the hill, 1¼ miles from the town, in about 2½ acres of land, and comprise an operating office, superintendent's house, and a house for the other officials. They are substantial and commodious buildings, the total cost having been $23,708.

Public works were confined to repairs, but the unprecedented amount of cart and carriage traffic during the construction of the telegraph buildings necessitated an unforeseen expenditure on the roads. The total amount spent on public works was $5,142, as against $1,142 in 1894.

COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLIES.

There are none, the Colony being administered as part of the British North Borneo Company's territory.

By an Ordinance, No. IV. of 1891, provision was made for the formation of a Chinese Advisory Board, but the board was never constituted.

Efforts have been lately renewed to induce the Chinese to form such a representative board, but they failed, owing to the apathy of the Chinese.

The Victoria Lighting and Sanitary Committee, constituted under Ordinance IV. of 1882 and II. of 1883, never had any real life and has been discontinued. Efforts have also been lately made to re-establish this, but they too, failed owing to the refusal of the leading European inhabitants to join the committee. The work of the committee therefore, keeping the town in a sanitary state, repairing the roads and bridges, and lighting the town, are carried out by the ordinary administration, while a rate is levied in aid of the cost.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The principal changes during the year were as follows:—

Mr. C. V. Creagh, C.M.G., Governor, left the Colony on 12th June and was succeeded by myself. My commission was publicly read and I took the prescribed oaths on the 13th June.

Mr. Holkar, Chief Constable, Gaoler, and Postmaster, retired from the service on pension at the end of the year, and Mr. Applin, Police Magistrate, went on leave in December, his place being taken by Mr. G. M. O'B. Hersford, transferred from Kudat. Mr. Ponsonby, Treasury Clerk, was transferred to Sandakan and his place filled by Mr. Wai Sik. Mr. P. G. Mathias was appointed Overseer of the Public Works in succession to Lant, deceased, who had served more than 27 years in Labuan.

CHURCHES.

Although there are about 32 European and Eurasian inhabitants of the Colony, no church has yet been built to replace that burned down in 1889. The Lord Bishop generally visits Labuan once a year, and the chaplain from Sandakan two or three times a year.

EDUCATION.

The only educational establishment is a small school in Victoria built by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; this is conducted, under the direction of the bishop and chaplain, by a Chinese schoolmaster. The average daily attendance is about a dozen boys, no girls.

The British North Borneo Company contribute $200 per annum to support it.

LEGISLATION.

The Ordinances enacted were: No. I., to regulate the practice of barristers and others. This empowers the Governor to admit persons duly qualified in the United Kingdom, India, or a British Colony, as barristers, &c., to practise as such in Labuan; and makes it an offence to practise without having been so admitted. No. II., to provide for the better administration of justice. By this a proclamation in force in British North Borneo was brought into force in Labuan. The proclamation merely adapts the Indian Code of Criminal Procedure to the circumstances of the territory.

CURRENCY.

By two Orders of Her Majesty in Council published in the Official Gazette, the British dollar was legalised and the currency generally was regulated.

TRADE.

There was a falling off in the value of imports as compared with 1894 of $166,991 but an increase in the value of exports of $83,801.

	1894.	1895.
	$	$
Imports - - -	852,880	685,889
Exports - - -	482,820	566,621

In imports the falling off was in food, drinks, and narcotics about $17,000.

	$
Raw material - - - -	15,000
Manufactured articles - - -	143,000
The greatest falls occurred in—	
Rice, &c. - - - - -	13,000
Raw sago - - - - -	16,000
Machinery - - - - -	25,000

		$
Sundries	- - - - -	50,000
Treasure	- - - - -	65,000
Whereas there were increases in —		
Damar	- - - - about	35,000
Gutta percha	- - - - „	11,400
Cloth	- - - - „	10,000

As regards exports; food, drinks, and narcotics show a small falling off of $200; raw material an increase of $135,800, due to gutta percha, $11,400; and coal, $119,600; manufactured articles a falling off of $30,000, chiefly sago flour, $46,000; and sundries, $14,000: as against an increase in raw sago of $27,000.

Shipping.

The following table shows that the carrying trade is increasing, mainly due to the output from the coal mines:—

——	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1894 - - -	121	56,879
1895 - - -	135	70,367

Throughout the year there were three passenger steamers running regularly between Singapore and Labuan, going to North Borneo ports, and two trading with Sulu Celebes and one with Brunei. Another steamship is exclusively employed carrying coal from Labuan to Singapore.

There is again a considerable increase in the amount of coal shipped from Labuan mines as follows:—

Year.	Tons Exported.	Value in Dollars.
1892 - -	12,004	58,681
1893 - -	4,112	22,616
1894 - -	14,597	67,304
1895 - -	39,973	187,572

Agricultural.

There is evidence of some development in cultivation, some 12 applicants having purchased 196 acres of land during the year, whereas in 1894 no land was sold.

Gaols and Crime.

There was a satisfactory decrease in serious crime.

——	1894.	1895.
Offences reported - -	193	93
Convictions - - -	111	100
Daily average in prison -	15·81	8·56

The latter total, however, being reduced somewhat by the transfer of some of the prisoners to other gaols.

Hospitals.

Two hundred and eighty-one patients were admitted during the year, 205 were cured, 22 were relieved, four absconded, and 28 died. This large number was caused by the treatment in the Labuan Hospital of many of the men employed in making a road and erecting a telegraph on the mainland of Borneo. In other respects the general health was good, though an epidemic of measles and some sporadic cases of influenza occurred. The measles is reported to have caused a good many deaths and some cases of blindness in North Borneo.

Postal.

Twenty-six thousand five hundred and thirteen letters and cards and 20,292 packets and parcels passed through the Post Office, as against 20,324 letters and 15,697 packets in 1894, and the value of orders issued and paid was $5,055, as compared with $1,918 in 1894. Stamps were sold to the value of $8,692.

General.

The Colony was visited by H.M.S. "Mercury" in June, by H.M.S. "Alacrity" and Vice-Admiral Buller, C.B., and by H.M.S. "Redpole" in December, by His Highness Rajah Brooke of Sarawak in March.

The s.s. "Saint Pancras," 4,200 tons, of Liverpool, was totally wrecked on the Samarang shoal, but no lives were lost. She was homeward bound from Manila with a cargo of hemp and copra.

A substantial lighthouse was erected on Pulan (Island) Papan, but the lamps used did not give good results and the lighthouse was not notified as in use.

One fire occurred, in which a house and shed were burnt, but the police were able to prevent the conflagration from spreading.

I have, &c.

LEICESTER P. BEAUFORT,
Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 221.

LABUAN.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 180.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1897.

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1897.

[C.—8650-19.] *Price 2d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos—Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 221.

LABUAN.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 180 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR BEAUFORT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor's Office, Labuan,
6th October, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Labuan Blue Book for the year 1896.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total amount collected was $55,008·13, whilst the total Expenditure was $53,888·63, showing a surplus of $1,119·50.

The following table shows the principal sources of Revenue and the increase or decrease from the same source in 1895, cents being omitted.

Source.	Received in 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$
Land Revenue	2,949	15	—
Rents exclusive of land	4,550	373	—
Licences (opium, &c.)...	29,840	6,167	—
Customs...	3,081	2,329	—
Postal & Inland Revenue	6,624	—	1,575

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Under Expenditure it is only necessary to account for the large decrease of $16,806 under the heading of *Works and Buildings*, which was due to there being no extraordinary undertakings as in 1895 when the offices and quarters of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company were built.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Resident Flint returned to Sandakan and Mr. F.O. Maxwell was appointed Acting-Resident. The Emaum was dismissed for misconduct in December.

CHURCHES.

No church has yet been built to replace that burnt down in 1889. The Bishop generally visits Labuan once a year and the Chaplain from Sandakan two or three times.

EDUCATION.

There is a small school in Victoria built by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; this is conducted, under the direction of the Bishop and Chaplain, by a Chinese School Master. The average daily attendance is about a dozen boys, no girls. The British North Borneo Company contributes $200 per annum towards its support.

LEGISLATION.

The only proclamations of the year were those prohibiting the export of arms and ammunition to Netherlands India, and that relating to neutrality, published on account of the disturbances in the Philippine Islands. Notifications were also published relating to Dog Licences, Carts and Carriages, and Cattle straying and pasturing on Government lands.

TRADE.

There was a considerable increase in the value of both the Imports and Exports as compared with 1895, the total values being :—

——	1895.	1896.	Increase.
	$	$	$
Imports	685,889	707,749 ...	... 21,860
Exports	566,621	593,933	27,312

In *Imports* the noticeable increases are mostly under food, drinks, and narcotics. Under raw materials there are several heavy decreases, notably, Dammar and Gutta Percha. Rattans, however, have nearly doubled, and Sago flour continues to increase.

In *Exports* the raw materials are practically the same, Labuan being only a depôt for shipment as regards this class of goods. It is only necessary to mention the coal exported, 52,071 tons as against 44,443 tons the year before.

SHIPPING.

The following table shows that the increase in the shipping of the port for the previous year was more than maintained.

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1894	121	56,879
1895	135	70,367
1896	183	128,109

The increase is mainly due to the increasing number of steamers calling for coal. The output of coal from the mines continues to increase, the production for 1896 being 46,449 tons, as against 39,973 tons in 1895.

GAOLS AND CRIME.

There is very little serious crime, the number of offences reported to the police amounting to 53 only, as against 93 the preceding year, the daily average of prisoners being 8·36 against 8·56 for 1895.

HOSPITALS.

Two hundred and sixty nine male patients were admitted during the year, and two females. Of these 209 were cured, 17 relieved, 11 absconded, and 26 died, the balance remaining in hospital at the end of the year.

There was no epidemic disease during the year.

POSTAL.

33,119 letters and cards and 18,642 newspapers passed through the Post Office, as against 26,513 letters and 18,842 newspapers

LABUAN. 1896.

in 1895. Stamps were sold to the value of $8,043·55 compared with $8,746·36 in 1895, the difference being occasioned by the decrease in the demands of collectors. The value of orders issued and paid was $12,531, against $5,055 in the preceding year.

GENERAL.

The following of Her Majesty's Ships visited the Colony during the year:—

March 10th	...	H.M.S. "Undaunted."
July 12th	...	" "Porpoise."
October 17th	...	" "Rainbow."
December 23rd	...	" "Pique."

By the direction of the Secretary of State, His Excellency Sir Charles B. H. Mitchell, G.C.M.G., High Commissioner for Borneo, held an enquiry at Labuan into some grievances, alleged in a Petition signed by a large number of the inhabitants, and forwarded to the Secretary of State.

The 24th of December being the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Colony, the event was marked by a Public Meeting. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the China Station sent H.M.S. "Pique" to be present on the occasion.

I have, etc.,

LEICESTER P. BEAUFORT,

Governor.

LONDON:
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By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 253.

LABUAN.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 221.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December, 1898.

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1898.

[C.—9046-21.] *Price* ½*d.*

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
231	Barbados	"
232	Lagos	"
233	St. Vincent	"
234	Sierra Leone	"
235	Falkland Islands	"
236	Straits Settlements	"
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	"
240	St. Helena	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago	"
242	British Honduras	"
243	Malta	"
244	Fiji	"
245	Hong Kong	"
246	Leeward Islands	"
247	Grenada	"
248	Gibraltar...	"
249	Gold Coast	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 253.

LABUAN.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 221.)

GOVERNOR BEAUFORT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Labuan,

September 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Labuan Blue Book for the year 1897.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total amount collected was $55,702.51, while the total expenditure was $49,146.68, showing a surplus of $6,556.

The following table shows the principal sources of revenue and the increase or decrease from the same source in 1896, cents being omitted :—

Source.	Received in 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$
Land Revenue	2,247	--	313
Rents, exclusive of land ...	4,785	75	—
Licenses (opium &c.)	29,499	—	331
Customs	3,024	920	—
Postal and Inland Revenue ...	7,059	1,427	—
Port and Harbour Dues	1,970	331	—
Fines and Fees	2,247	—	941

The revenue exceeded that of 1896 by about $700.

Under Expenditure, pensions have increased by $1,366 owing chiefly to difference in exchange. There is a decrease under Public Works and an increase under General Upkeep.

1011—750—11/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

LABUAN, 1897.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The service and the public sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. F. O. Maxwell, the Acting Resident. He was obliged to take leave on account of ill health, and died while absent from the Colony in August. Mr. G. Hewett was appointed Acting Resident.

CHURCHES.

No church has yet been built to replace that burnt down in 1889.

The school house is used as a chapel. The bishop visits Labuan once a year generally. There is no chaplain.

EDUCATION.

The small school in Victoria built by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was conducted, under the direction of the bishop and the Sandakan chaplain, by a Chinese schoolmaster, but owing to his resignation the school was closed in August. It will be re-opened under an Eurasian master.

The average daily attendance is about seven boys, no girls. The British North Borneo Company contributes $200 per annum to the pay of the schoolmaster.

PUBLIC WORKS.

At the request of Officers Commanding H.M. ships, the rifle range was improved by the construction of better butts and mantlets with a rail running between, by which targets can be run in and out for two firing parties. The range was used during the year, and is most conveniently situated for the fleet, being on the beach within a quarter of a mile of the anchorage. It is perfectly flat and is used up to 1,000 yards.

The long bridge over the swamp at the back of the town was completely renewed: it is 400 feet in length.

LEGISLATION.

The only proclamations of the year were those prohibiting the export of arms and ammunition to Netherlands, India, North Borneo, and Brunei, that relating to neutrality published on account of the war between Turkey and Greece, and that suspending the collection of the duty on salt after the end of the year. Ordinances were also published relating to the duties on spirituous and fermented liquors and wine, and tobacco. The trade in these had been a monopoly which had been sold each year. By the new laws these trades were thrown open, and an import duty was put on spirits, &c., and tobacco. This duty may be collected by the Government, or the collection may be farmed.

The tobacco duty was collected by the Government, while the duties on spirits, &c. were leased for the year. Formerly only one person could import or sell spirits or tobacco; now anyone can do so on payment of the duty and fees.

TRADE.

There was a large increase in the value of imports and exports as compared with 1896, the total value being :—

—	1896.	1897.	Increase
	$	$	$
Imports	707,749	884,833	177,084
Exports	593,933	653,688	59 755

In imports the principal increases are mostly under foods, drinks, and narcotics. Under raw materials there are also large increases, notably squared timber, gutta-percha, rattans, beeswax, raw and prepared sago; there are decreases under india-rubber, gum damar and hides.

In exports, raw materials have nearly doubled. Coal has been shipped to the amount of 43,891 tons, against 52,071 tons in 1896, the price of coal averaging from $6 to $8 at the end of the year.

SHIPPING.

Comparative statement for the periods 1895, 1896, and 1897 :—

Year.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1895	135	70,367
1896	183	128,109
1897	235	162,108
Increase over 1896 ...	52	33,999

The number of steamers calling in for bunker coal has materially increased, but the production from the mines of the New Central Borneo Company has slightly decreased, the latter this year amounting to 45,120 tons, against 46,449 tons in 1896.

LABUAN, 1897.

GAOLS AND CRIME.

There was a temporary strike amongst the Chinese stevedores, owing to the action of some of the headmen, but the stoppage of work only lasted about three days. The cases reported to the police numbered 54 as against 53 in 1896, the daily average of prisoners being 21·87 against 8·36 in the preceding year. The increased number is owing to convicts being sent from North Borneo to assist in public works, upkeep and repairs, for which native labour was not available.

HOSPITALS.

341 male patients were admitted during the year and 2 females. Of these 241 were cured, 19 relieved, 22 absconded, and 60 died, the balance remaining in hospital at end of year. There was no epidemic disease during the year.

POSTAL.

44,917 letters and cards and 18,613 newspapers passed through the post office, as against 33,119 letters and 18,642 newspapers in 1896. Stamps were sold to the value of $8,881.37 compared with $8,043.55 in 1896, the difference being occasioned by the increase in the postal traffic. The value of orders issued and paid was $16,568.28 against $12,531 in the preceding year.

GENERAL.

Her Majesty's Jubilee was held on the 22nd and 23rd of June. His Highness the Rajah of Sarawak visited Labuan on the 2nd July. An earthquake, on the 21st September, caused an upheaval between Labuan and the mainland. A mud island was formed, with exhalations of gas. The shock was felt only in certain localities.

The following of Her Majesty's ships visited the Colony during the year :—

April 1st	... ...	H.M.S. "Rainbow."
„ 22nd	... ...	„ "Pique."
May 3rd	... ...	„ "Pigmy."
„ 25th	... ...	„ "Iphigenia."
December 31st	...	„ "Plover."

I have &c.,

LEICESTER P. BEAUFORT,

Governor of Labuan and British North Borneo.

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1898.